AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of treating liver fibrosis ~~disease~~ in a subject by inducing hepatic stellate cell apoptosis, the method comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of sulfasalazine or a derivative thereof capable of inducing hepatic stellate cell apoptosis ~~an inducer of hepatic stellate cell apoptosis, or of an agent capable of giving rise to an inducer of hepatic stellate cell apoptosis, wherein said inducer or agent:~~

~~(a) is selectively delivered to hepatic stellate cells in the liver of the subject;~~

~~(b) selectively induces, or gives rise to a selective inducer, of hepatic stellate cell apoptosis in the liver of the subject; and/or~~

(c) ~~generates an inducer of apoptosis specifically in hepatic stellate cells~~.

2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the number of hepatic stellate cells induced to undergo apoptosis in the liver of the subject is at least ten times greater than the number of hepatocytes induced to undergo apoptosis.

3. (cancelled).

4. (cancelled).

5. (cancelled).

6. (cancelled).

7. (cancelled).

8. (cancelled).

9. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the inducer administered or generated is an antagonist of a $5HT_2$ receptor.

10. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 9, wherein the inducer is an antagonist of the $5HT_{2B}$ receptor subtype.

11. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said sulfasalazine or derivative thereof ~~the inducer or agent~~ is delivered to the hepatic stellate cells of the subject using a liposome ~~or a virus~~.

12. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the agent administered to the subject comprises a nucleic acid construct which:

- encodes a polypeptide inducer of hepatic stellate cell apoptosis;
- can be transcribed to give rise to an RNA molecule which can induce hepatic stellate cell apoptosis; and/or
- encodes a polypeptide whose expression results in the generation of an inducer of apoptosis.

13. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 12, wherein the nucleic acid in the agent administered to the subject which encodes the polypeptide or which can be transcribed to give an RNA inducer is operably linked to a hepatic stellate specific promoter and hence is only expressed in the hepatic stellate cells of the subject.

14. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 12, wherein the nucleic acid in the agent administered to the subject comprises a nucleic acid region capable of expressing an antisense nucleic acid or a siRNA molecule which induces hepatic stellate cell apoptosis.

15. (cancelled).

16. (cancelled).

17. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the inducer of hepatic stellate cell apoptosis administered to the subject is selected from the group consisting of gliotoxin or a derivative of gliotoxin capable of inducing hepatic stellate cell apoptosis.

18. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 17, wherein the gliotoxin, or derivative, is administered to the subject in an amount of from 0.1 to 25 mg per kg bodyweight of the subject.

19. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the inducer of hepatic stellate cell apoptosis administered to the subject, or generated, is selected from the group consisting of nerve growth factor, a derivative of nerve growth factor or an antagonist of the p75 receptor.

20. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 19, wherein the antagonist of the p75 receptor is spiperone or a derivative thereof.

21. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 1, wherein the inducer administered to the subject, or generated, inhibits the interaction of a tissue inhibitor of a matrixmetalloprotease (TIMP) with a matrixmetalloprotease.

22. (withdrawn) A method according to claim 21, wherein the inducer administered to the subject, or generated, inhibits the interaction of TIMP-1 with an MMP.

23. (cancelled).

24. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said sulfasalazine or derivative thereof ~~inducer or agent~~ is admininistered to the subject in the form of an implant comprising said sulfasalazine or derivative thereof ~~the inducer or agent~~.

25. (original) A method according to claim 24, wherein the implant is inserted into the liver of the subject.

26. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the subject to be treated has liver cirrhosis.

27. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the subject has a condition selected from the group consisting of fibrosis caused by a pathogen, fibrosis caused by an autoimmune condition, fibrosis due to exposure to a drug, fibrosis caused by exposure to a chemical, fibrosis caused by consumption of alcohol , fibrosis caused by an inherited condition and primary biliary cirrhosis.

28. (currently amended) A kit comprising:

- ~~a selective inducer of hepatic stellate cell apoptosis wherein the inducer is~~ sulfasalazine or a derivative thereof capable of inducing hepatic stellate cell apoptosis ~~or an agent~~

  ~~capable of giving rise to a selective inducer of hepatic stellate cell~~

~~apoptosis *in vivo*~~; and

- instructions describing how to administer said sulfasalazine or derivative thereof ~~the inducer or agent~~ to a subject suffering from liver fibrosis ~~disease~~ to treat the liver fibrosis byinducing hepatic stellate cell apoptosis.

29. (cancelled).

30. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein the wherein the sulfasalazine derivative is selected from the group consisting of 5 aminosalicyclic acid (5-ASA), 4 aminosalicyclic acid (4-ASA) and sulfapyridine.